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Serial No.: 10/723,617

PD-203076

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are now pending in this application. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-3 and 6 were previously allowed. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicant's representative Eric Gifford and Examiner Steven S. Paik conducted telephonic interviews on September 15, 2006 and October 4, 2006 to discussed proposed amendments to the claimed invention. Examiner Paik agreed that the proposed amendment to specify a "one-piece receptacle lip that forms a placement tab" in claim 4 clearly overcomes the teachings of the prior art.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,091,618 to Takahashi (Takahashi).

As amended, claim 4 recites a "one-piece receptacle lip that forms a placement tab" extending extends from first and second longitudinal sides and a closed lateral side into the receptacle to secure the smart card along the "entire length of the one-piece receptacle lip". Takahashi teaches a pair of discrete guides 6a and 6b along parallel longitudinal sides and an arm 5 mounted on the base towards a lateral end (for rotating the contact mechanism), which also acts as a stopper contacting the leading end of the IC card. These elements do not define a 'one-piece' receptacle lip and do not secure the card along the entire length of such a one-piece lip. Also, at col. 4, lines 38-39, "the IC card 7 is held between the rotated contact spring 1 and base 6". Therefore, the card is secured by a combination of the parallel guides 6a and 6b, arm or 'stopper' 5 and the contact spring 1. This is a very different configuration than Applicant's claimed "one-piece receptacle lip". Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that Takahashi cannot support the 102 rejection of claim 4, and requests withdrawal of this rejection.

As amended, claim 5 recites that the lip extends into the receptacle at a "fixed spacing from the bottom surface". Takahashi's arm 5 is mounted on the base to act as a 'stopper' and contact spring 1 moves from a position on the base to a position on top of the card. The guides 6a and 6b, arm 5 and contract spring 1 do not form a one-piece lip that extends over the bottom surface of the receptacle at a fixed spacing. Claim 5 also recites that the contacts reside on a

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'fixed' contact pad on the bottom surface of the receptacle in an area uncovered by the receptacle lip. Takahashi's contacts reside on a spring mechanism positioned inside the main body that rotates and rides up on the leading edge of the card as it is inserted to make contact with the card. The combination of a fixed one-piece receptacle lip to secure the smart card and a fixed contact pad to connect to the smart card is not taught by Takahashi. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that Takahashi cannot support th3 102 rejection of claim 4, and requests withdrawal of this rejection.

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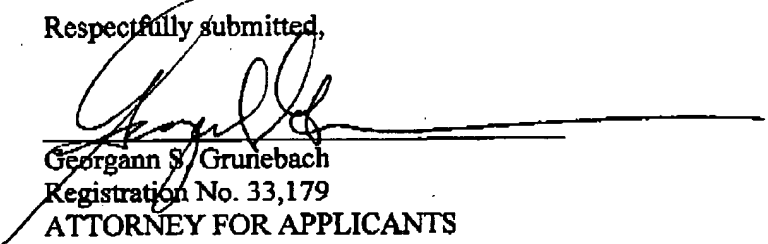
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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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